

Hizbullah denies holding Waite

BEIRUT (AP) — Hizbullah, an Iranian-backed Shiite militant faction, on Monday rejected charges by Druze leader Walid Junblatt that it holds missing Anglican church hostage negotiator Terry Waite. Earlier, an American envoy, Mohammad Mehdji, called for a U.S.-led embargo on arms sales to the Middle East, saying it would "end the civil war in Lebanon and halt a spate of kidnappings." (See page 2). The statement issued by Hizbullah said: "We strongly deplore the accusation by Mr. Junblatt concerning our involvement in the abduction of the so-called Terry Waite." We like to believe that this was an unintentional error made to still the appetite of the Western press, which is gasping after anything new about the hostages held in Lebanon. We appreciate Mr. Junblatt's embarrassment over Mr. Waite's abduction. But he fully realises that we do not know any more than he does about the kidnappers who were said to be negotiating with the Anglican emissary.

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Justice ministers council chief arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Mr. Omar Miko, secretary-general of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers, arrived here on Monday for talks with Justice Minister Riyadh Shakaa and other officials on preparations for a meeting of the council in Amman next month.

Israeli police raid AIC office

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli police on Monday raided and then closed for six months the offices of a pro-Palestinian Israeli leftist group, taking away six of its members and stacks of documents, police said. A police spokesman charged that the Alternative Information Centre (AIC) in West Jerusalem acted on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. The AIC is best known for support of Palestinian nationalist causes. It publishes a bi-monthly newsletter listing Israeli violations of Palestinian rights.

President confirms death sentence on ex-mayor of Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein has confirmed death sentences passed on five officials, including a former mayor of Baghdad, for taking bribes, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Monday. Ex-Mayor Abdul Wahab Mohammad Latif Al Mufti, sacked last June for "fiscal failings," accepted bribes and commissions from foreign firms in exchange for information on projects in Iraq, INA said, quoting a presidential decree. The decree said Sabri William Nassri, a chief engineer, Fahmi Jeris Fathullah and Mohammad Saleh Hassan Mohamad Al Ali, both engineers, were the ex-mayor's accomplices, working for the state establishment for roads and bridges. The position of the fifth man sentenced to death, Sami Majedeh Yassawi, was not given.

Britons trust Gorbachev more than they do Reagan

LONDON (R) — Fewer than one in three people in Britain — Washington's closest ally — believe President Reagan is more likely to end the nuclear arms race than Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, according to a European poll published Monday. The Guardian newspaper's Marplan poll showed that 35 per cent thought the Soviet Union genuinely wanted to end the race, while 31 per cent thought the United States had the same aim, the Guardian said. A majority of people in Britain (56 per cent), West Germany (66 per cent), France (60 per cent) and Italy (68 per cent), where the poll was conducted, opposed stocking U.S. nuclear weapons in Europe.

Iran Air protests German TV 'insults'

FRANKFURT (R) — Iran Air cancelled Monday's flight to Tehran after a television show which, it said, insulted Iranian Revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. "Protesting against the insults against the world Muslim leader 'Imam Khomeini' on German Television, Iran Air employees, on behalf of all Muslims, as a sign of their contempt are on strike," the airline said in a statement.

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Hundreds of Arabs clash with Israeli occupation soldiers

Palestinian protests spread to most towns and camps in occupied territories

GAZA CITY, Occupied Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli soldiers clashed with hundreds of Palestinian protesters in nearly a dozen towns and refugee camps on Monday and four Palestinian students and two Israelis were injured, Israel Radio and Palestinian sources said.

The students, rallying for the eighth straight day to protest the militia siege of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, waved Palestinian flags and shouted slogans in support of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The trouble started when the students expressed solidarity with Palestinians in the refugee camps besieged by Amal," said Ibrahim Karen, editor of the Palestine Press Service which monitors events in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Mr. Karen said in a telephone interview the violence was exacerbated by Israeli "harassment... these demonstrations will continue as long as there is an occupation."

Israel Radio centred its reports on protests in the occupied West Bank, where it said Palestinians smashed the windows of Israeli cars in the town of Ramallah. It

said one Israeli motorist was injured in the foot by stones.

Another driver was struck by a stone and slightly injured near the Dheishe refugee camp on the outskirts of Bethlehem, the radio said.

The compound itself came under a hail of rocks until troops dispersed them.

After backed-up traffic began moving again along the main road, a group of five Palestinians set up a roadblock made of boulders, trees and strips of wire.

The military dispatched a water cannon vehicle and four Israeli jeeps with soldiers and border police to disperse the protesters and clear the main street and adjacent narrow alleys.

After the area was cleared soldiers forced Palestinians to pick up the debris and banged with nightsticks on the shutters of shops along the main street, ordering the shopkeepers to open. Most stores remained shut.

Siege-weary Palestinian refugees

stockpile food in Rashidiyah camp

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinians in their thousands trudged out of the South Lebanon camp of Rashidiyah again on Monday, but many apparently feared relief from the camps war siege was only temporary.

Scores brought out bundles of belongings, leaving the camp for fear of further violence, as women in headscarves went back in with as much as they could balance on their heads or load onto their backs.

"They now out of food supplies. The Palestinians have bought everything, even food for birds," one shop owner said in Tyre, near Rashidiyah, where some 20,000 refugees live.

The besieging Shi'ite Amal militia first lifted its 17-week

siege of Rashidiyah on Sunday and said it would allow refugees on every day to shop for food and medicine.

"The siege is not yet lifted, and the problem is not completely solved. There are still lots of weapons and arms in the camp," said one Amal official in Tyre.

Sporadic rocket and gun-fire kept tension high around the two other Amal besieged camps, Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila in Beirut, where more than 30,000 people were reported eating domestic animals and rats to ward off starvation.

Palestinian sources quoted by Reuter said one man was killed and two wounded in the clashes around Shatila.

Amal's partial lift of the siege

(Continued on page 2)

Amal and Communist fighters renew battles

BEIRUT (R) — Explosions rocked west Beirut on Monday as street battles between Shi'ite Muslim and leftist militias erupted for the second consecutive day, police said.

They said civilians fled for cover as scores of militiamen in full combat gear took to streets at dusk, firing machineguns and rocket-propelled grenades.

The fighting pitted the Shi'ite Amal militia against the pro-Soviet Communist Party, backed by the mainly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Amal sources said.

They said the battles were confined to the Tariq Al Jdeidah district and the Maazra thoroughfare, where the Voice of the Homeland radio said several cars and buildings were ablaze.

It was not known what caused the fighting, which came after Amal-Communist battles killed five people and wounded 28 on Monday.

Sunday's four-hour battles, mainly in the Sanayeh and Hamra districts, were sparked by a dispute over the opening of a new Amal office near a Communist Party centre.

appeared designed to cool the 21-month-old intermittent confrontation between its militiamen and the Palestinians. However, there were no indications that blockade of Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila would be lifted.

A U.N. spokeswoman said Amal officials have "refused to allow more food into Bourj Al Barajneh and Shatila."

Palestinian officials said 15 families of about 90 women and children were allowed Monday to leave Bourj Al Barajneh to the smaller Mar Elias camp, which is protected by neutral militiamen.

Palestinian sources said the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) sent a truckload of flour into Rashidiyah Sunday.

Amal's partial lift of the siege

(Continued on page 2)

Israeli panel blacks out news on Iran hearings

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A panel investigating Israel's role in weapons sales to Iran imposed a news blackout on hearings scheduled for Monday.

The apparent resumption of the Israeli probe came while Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was visiting the United States where American officials were expected to pressure Israel for more information on its role in the arms deals.

The six-member subcommittee of parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee stepped up a probe of the arms deals two weeks ago after a U.S. Senate report accused Israel of greater involvement in the scandal than acknowledged by the government.

The intelligence services subcommittee has questioned Israel's two official liaisons with Washington for the deals, Amiram Nir, the prime minister's advisor, and David Kimche, former director of the foreign ministry.

Committee chairman Abba Eban said last week the committee would question two key weapons dealers, Yaakov Nurodi and Al Schwimmer, on Monday.

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The Saudis were upset because Mr. Khashoggi traded with Israel in the process, the magazine said. They had considered asking for his extradition from the United States but decided against it since no U.S. court would consider trading with Israel a valid charge, Newsweek said.

They then tried to impound his assets in Saudi Arabia, the magazine said, but found that Mr. Khashoggi had put up everything he owned there as collateral on a \$22.7 million loan.

"Khashoggi hasn't got a rial in the kingdom," Newsweek quoted the source as saying.

In another development, News-



Spanish defence chief arrives today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Spanish Defence Minister Marc Serra flies in today from Riyadh on a three-day official visit to the Kingdom, a Spanish embassy spokesman said Monday. Mr. Serra's visit to Jordan is his second and final leg of a Middle East tour, and observers believe that defence cooperation between Jordan and Spain will top the agenda of talks between Mr. Serra and his host, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. Mr. Serra, who will be heading a senior six-member military delegation on the visit, is also expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein and meet with a number of senior civil and military officials, the embassy spokesman said. On Wednesday evening, Mr. Serra is scheduled to give a press conference at the Amman Plaza hotel to outline the outcome of his talks with Jordanian officials.



KING MEETS ROMANIAN SPEAKER: His (centre) in a meeting attended by Upper House Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi (see story on page 3)

Cabinet endorses several measures to curb spending

Royal Decree approves increase in travel tax

AMMAN (Petra) — In a special meeting held on Monday, the Cabinet reviewed measures to organise public spending in various areas and endorsed a number of steps to achieve the goal.

The measures taken include the following:

— Strict adherence to the allocations earmarked in the 1987 fiscal budget pertaining to transport and travel allowances and fees; limiting the travel abroad of Jordanian official delegations and controlling official expenditures for parties and presentation allowances.

— Cancellation of all overtime allowances except in cases warranted by the exigencies of work and approved beforehand by the Cabinet.

— No issuance of any public tenders unless previously endorsed by the Cabinet;

— Reductions by 10 per cent of all allocations provided for water, electricity, fuel, furniture, equipment and supplies for all ministries and official and public institutions.

— Cancellation of all exemptions from customs duties on purchases of public supplies agreed upon after March 25, excluding those cases which get the Cabinet's prior approval.

— Cancellation of all overtime allowances except in cases warranted by the exigencies of work and approved beforehand by the Cabinet.

— Reductions by JD 5 per head if they use the sea or land routes.

ers' allocation accounts.

Also on Monday, a Royal Decree was issued endorsing an increase in travel tax to be paid by people leaving Jordan by air, land and sea. According to the new measure, every Jordanian leaving the country by air will pay a travel tax of JD 15. For Jordanian travellers using the sea route from Aqaba or the border points to leave the country the tax is JD 7 per head, according to the new measure.

No Jordanians leaving the country by air have to pay JD 7 per head. The tax is JD 5 per head if they use the sea or land routes.

Non-Jordanians leaving the country by air have to pay JD 15 per head. The tax is JD 5 per head if they use the sea or land routes.

Iraqi jets bomb Qom and Dezful

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi warplanes bombed Iran's holy city of Qom and the western garrison town of Dezful late Sunday in what has become a round-the-clock bombing offensive in the six-and-a-half-year-old Gulf war.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted a military spokesman as saying the raids "are part of the Iraqi people's punishment of the Khomeini clique which adamantly continues the war and aggression."

The spokesman reported destructive strikes by the fighter-bombers in simultaneous raids at 11:30 p.m. Sunday.

Both cities have been hit repeatedly in the five-week-old Iraqi bombing campaign that Iraqi leaders have said is aimed at forcing Iran to the conference table to end the conflict.

Iran's state-run media confirmed the night-time attacks, saying residential areas were hit and an unspecified number of people were killed or wounded.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said some 40 people were killed and scores wounded Sunday in day-long raids on Qom, seat of Iran's religious hierarchy, and 10 other cities.

Iran has retaliated against the day-and-night Iraqi raids by lobbing missiles into Baghdad and other cities and pounding border towns with artillery.

Iran has said more than 3,000 civilians have been killed and 7,000 wounded in the Iraqi raids. Iraq has reported hundreds of civilian casualties in the so-called "war of the cities."

purchased and weapons were not being sold."

Mr. Torricelli, the first U.S. congressman to visit Iraq since 1984, said he had found it "relatively easy" to explain "there was not an interest by the United States to do damage to Iraq" by selling arms to Iran "since the arms sales were so clearly not in the security interests of the United States."

He said that although there was no immediate, measurable impact" of the U.S. arms sales on the battlefield, they had "a chilling effect."

"I think you'd have to conclude that some armour would be held in reserve. Some flights would not be flown because of the fear of United States-supplied weaponry," but he said it was "not clear" to what extent tanks and airplanes were being lost to U.S.-supplied anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles.

Mr. Torricelli said he had met with First Deputy Prime Minister Tahar Yassine Ramadan.

Torricelli says West should support Iraq

By John Rice

BAGHDAD (AP) — The first U.S. congressman to visit Iraq since the disclosure of American arms sales to Iran called Monday for Western nations to tilt in favour of Baghdad to stop the expansion of Iran's fundamentalist Islamic revolution.

Representative Robert Torricelli, a Democrat from New Jersey, urged an economic and military boycott of Iran if it would not agree to end the six-year-old war and did not respond to diplomatic pressure.

"I think an Iraqi diplomatic tilt is justifiable and required, in that Iran is clearly now east in the position of the aggressor nation and that it is in our strong interest that an Iranian military advance not succeed," Mr. Torricelli said in an interview with reporters for two Western news agencies.

The American politician said Iran posed a threat not just to Iraq but to other countries in the Gulf region, which supplies a large portion of the West's oil.

This fundamentalist revolution of Iran understands no international borders. It respects no other international interests," he added.

"It is important for nations that range from the United States and Israel to Western Europe and the Soviet Union to understand their own stake in the precarious defense of Basra," Mr. Torricelli said.

Mr. Torricelli said that the administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan had placed too much emphasis on limiting Soviet expansion, while "the most dangerously expansive philosophy and nation in the world today may be represented by Iran as much as by the Soviet Union."

The United States should be a statement of clear conditions for ending the conflict, both sides (should) be asked to end hostilities and if either side continues them sanctions (should) be applied.

"I think you'd have to conclude that some armour would be held in reserve. Some flights would not be flown because of the fear of United States-supplied weaponry," but he said it was "not clear" to what extent tanks and airplanes were

Gemayel meets Thatcher and Runcie but hopes for Waite focus elsewhere

LONDON (Agencies) — President Amin Gemayel offered little more than sympathy when he met Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Monday to discuss the plight of Anglican envoy Terry Waite and other Western hostages in Lebanon.

British officials said hopes for Mr. Waite's release centred on an appeal to his abductors by Druze leader Walid Junblatt.

Mr. Waite, one of 26 Westerners kidnapped or missing in Lebanon, vanished after leaving the protection of a Druze militia escort on Jan. 20 to negotiate with the kidnappers of four U.S. hostages.

Mr. Gemayel met Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe on Sunday and had lunch with Mr. Waite's superior, Archbishop of Canterbury Robert Runcie, after his meeting with Mrs. Thatcher.

A spokeswoman for the archbishop dismissed as "pure speculation" newspaper reports in Beirut that two special envoys were being sent to Damascus to try to obtain Mr. Waite's release and said there was still no further news on his whereabouts.

Israel begins trial of Demjanjuk

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An alleged Nazi war criminal went on trial in Israel on Monday on charges of killing hundreds of thousands of Jews during World War II and his lawyer appealed immediately for his return to the United States.

Ukrainian-born John Demjanjuk, a 66-year-old retired car worker, was extradited from the United States last year to stand trial in Israel's first Nazi war crimes proceedings since Adolf Eichmann was tried and hanged a quarter-century ago.

Mr. Demjanjuk, of Cleveland, Ohio, faces the death penalty

under Israel's 1950 Nazis and Nazi collaborators law if found guilty of "crimes against Jews and humanity."

Defence attorney Mark O'Connor said in an opening statement the court should "hold the accused in custody and remand him to the United States of America."

He argued that the United States, which stripped Mr. Demjanjuk of his American citizenship in 1981 for allegedly lying about his wartime past, should prosecute his client.

Mr. Demjanjuk was deported to Israel to face charges because

Archbishop Runcie several days ago will have some effect.

Mr. Rafsanjani, seen as one of the more powerful figures in Iran's fundamentalist leadership, has said he would be prepared to offer any help he could to secure Mr. Waite's release.

Officials hope that if Hizbollah is holding Mr. Waite then Mr. Rafsanjani could be prevailed upon to bring pressure to bear for his freedom.

The Lebanese president is on what is billed as a private visit to Belgium, France and Britain aimed at drumming up economic aid for his beleaguered country.

One of his key advisers, former Lebanese Ambassador to the United Nations Ghassan Tueni, said Mr. Waite had been advised not to go to Beirut by Mr. Gemayel's administration.

Britain believes Mr. Waite is being held by pro-Iranian Hizbollah gunmen. Apart from Sunday's appeal by Mr. Junblatt to his kidnappers officials said they were hoping that a personal message to the speaker of the Iranian parliament, Hojatoleslam Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, from

"He had personally sent many people's Mujahedeen prisoners who were serving their sentences to firing squads on charges of organising resistance in the prison," said the statement.

He had constructed several special cells for torture and harassment of female Mujahedeen prisoners next to his office," it said. "Since March 1984, he became also active in the Khomeini regime's warmongering mobilisation and cooperated closely with the so-called 'Khatam Al Anbia,' and 'karbala' bases."

The name of Jamshid Ghare Savari was published last year by the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq in a "list of names of torturers in the Khomeini regime's prisons."

Mujahedeen-e-Khalq said Friday that the brother of Iranian President Ali Khamenei was wounded in a grenade attack.

An Iranian newspaper said Sunday that the man who threw the hand grenade at Hadi Khamenei, younger brother of President Khamenei, was killed by Revolutionary Guards.

Minister of Information Mohammad Mohammadi spokesman said.

The United States does not put on trial suspected Nazis for alleged crimes committed outside its borders.

In his opening statement, Mr. O'Connor challenged the Israeli court's jurisdiction to try his client, saying the crimes of which Mr. Demjanjuk was accused were committed in Europe before Israel came into being 38 years ago.

Similar defence arguments regarding court jurisdiction were made in the 1961 trial of Eichmann but were rejected by the court.

to American hostages Josph Cipriano and Frank Reed from relatives in the United States.

Mr. Cipriano's letter is from his brother, Thomas, and Mr. Reed's is from his daughter, Marilyn.

Mr. Cipriano and American hostage Edward Austin Tracy are held by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation. Mr. Reed's abduction was claimed by the Arab Revolutionary Cells — Omar Mukhtar Forces.

Mr. Mehdi said he also was carrying a "verbal message" to American hostage Terry A. Anderson from his sister, Peggy Say.

Mr. Anderson and Thomas Sutherland, another American captive, have been held since 1985 by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad.

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Mr. Mehdi said he also will seek freedom for 2,000 Lebanese civil war kidnap victims and Anglo church envoy Terry Waite "if he is a hostage."

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to American hostages Josph Cipriano and Frank Reed from relatives in the United States.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nablus residents thank King

AMMAN (Petra) Seven hundred citizens from Nablus Governorate on the occupied West Bank have sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for his continuous support to the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories. In their cable they praised the Jordanian government's decision to support teaching staff appointed by the Ministry of Education to posts in the West Bank after 1967.

Prince Hassan to co-chair new council

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan will patronise the founding meeting of the Arab council for children and development, co-chaired by Prince Hassan and Prince Talal Ibn Abdul Aziz, which will be held here in April. The founding of the council is in compliance with joint endeavours by the Crown Prince and Prince Talal to offer humanitarian assistance through joint Arab and international cooperation.

Saudi rulers congratulate Swareddahab

AMMAN (Petra) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ibn Abdul Aziz have congratulated Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, former head of the military council in Sudan, on his recovery from open-heart surgery which he underwent last week at the King Hussein Medical Centre. The congratulations were conveyed by Saudi Ambassador in Amman Ibrahim Al Sultan during a visit he paid on Monday to Field Marshal Swareddahab at the medical centre.

JTV to screen documentary tonight

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Television (JTV) will tonight show a special documentary on the Arab people in the occupied West Bank entitled "Courage along the Divide" at 8:30 p.m. on both channels. The 90-minute documentary is produced and directed by Victor Shonfeld. It exposes the daily sufferings of the Arab population under Israeli occupation and also reflects the ideological struggle within Israeli society.

Tawjihi averages higher this year

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education on Monday announced the results of the general secondary study certificates (tawjihi) exams for the East and West Banks. Director general of exams at the ministry, Mr. Ahmad Al Taqi, said that the results for this year were good and that students' averages were higher than those for 1986. A total of 51,124 students sat for the exam in the East Bank in the literary, scientific, commercial, industrial, agricultural, nursing, postal and hotel training streams. Mr. Taqi added that 13,474 students took the tawjihi exams in the West Bank.

Czech official expected today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Czechoslovakian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Garcer Jhon is expected to arrive in Amman today for talks with senior Jordanian officials on means to further promote Jordanian-Czechoslovak trade and commerce relations. An official at the Czechoslovak embassy in Amman said Monday that Mr. Jhon was due to hold meetings with Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher and Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan within the framework of the joint Jordanian-Czechoslovakian trade committee.

Ministry to improve roads in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works plans to construct roads and carry out maintenance on others in Amman Governorate at a total cost of JD 711,000, according to Mr. Mohammad Nsour, director of public works in the Amman region. Mr. Nsour was speaking during a tour of areas which will be included in the project, on which work will start in the coming few days.

Drug trafficker receives life

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Subuh Hamdan to life imprisonment with hard labour and fined him JD 5,000 for trafficking drugs. The sentence was passed in absentia.

Cabinet recalls ambassadors

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has decided to transfer six ambassadors to the Foreign Ministry in Amman as of June 15, 1987. The Cabinet also decided to retire Ambassador Mohammad Al Farrah as of Feb. 28 and Ambassador Mohammad Ali Khormah as of March 15. The Cabinet appointed Dr. Trad Saad Al Qadi, former health minister, and Helmi Al Lawzi, a former assistant chief of staff, as ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry.

Shamir begins visit to U.S.

(Continued from page 1)

in his government over the issue saying both wings of his coalition cabinet wanted direct peace negotiations with the Arab World.

"There are differences of view on the need and usefulness of a conference and I shall give all these views," he said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, head of the Labour faction in Mr. Shamir's cabinet, says a conference would lead to direct talks with the Arabs.

Mr. Peres' position received a boost last week when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who until now opposed the conference, said in a message to Israel that it was a possibility he wanted to discuss during Mr. Shamir's visit.

Asked about charges in the United States that Israel initiated the controversial arms-to-Iran deal, Mr. Shamir said: "We have

nothing to hide. I think we acted in accord with our relations with the United States and in accord with our consciences."

Asked about U.S. navy analyst Jonathan Pollard, who faces a long jail term in the United States on charges of spying for Israel, Mr. Shamir replied: "I don't think this will be a very important feature (of the trip) because what was done was done against our will and against the policy of the Israeli government."

Israel says Pollard was employed against standing rules by an Israeli intelligence agency which has since been disbanded because of its action.

A report published on Sunday raised doubts over the official Israeli line that Pollard was a small-time Israeli agent with limited access to information. According to the report Pollard provided a host of secret data on Arab and Islamic countries and their military programme to the Israeli intelligence network.

The families of Abdel Razzak Salem Oteishat in Jordan and Beaumont in the U.S.A., and all their relatives, regret with deepest sorrow the demise of their dearly beloved:

MEMORIAL MASS
for Martha Abdel Razzak

On Tuesday February 17th at 4 p.m.
The Virgin Mary of Nazareth Catholic Church
Swefieh, 6th Circle, Jabal Amman.
Condolences Tuesday and Wednesday at the
family home, 8th Circle.

OBITUARY

The families of Abdel Razzak Salem Oteishat in Jordan and Beaumont in the U.S.A., and all their relatives, regret with deepest sorrow the demise of their dearly beloved:

MARTHA ABDEL RAZZAK

EX

MARTHA BEAUMONT

After an operation, on the 15th of Feb. 1987.

Condolences will be accepted at the house of the deceased, located on the 8th Circle in the direction of the Medical City Road 200 metres from the circle, for 3 days starting Feb. 16th, 1987.



Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi Monday briefs a Romanian parliamentary delegation on Jordan's efforts to achieve peace in the region (Petra photo)

Jordan, N. Yemen open economic talks today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and North Yemen today open talks aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in various fields, according to an official announcement issued in Amman on Monday. The announcement said that the talks will be conducted through a joint Jordanian-North Yemeni committee formed upon the directives of His Majesty King Hussein and Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh, North Yemen's president. The joint committee is co-chaired by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and North Yemen's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Iryani. Dr. Iryani, accompanied by his

delegation, will arrive in Amman on Tuesday for a visit and talks with the Jordanian side. During their three-day stay in Jordan, the delegation will hold talks with Jordanian officials and will tour several economic institutions. Talks will cover economic and trade issues and the general Arab situation, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Petra said that the Jordanian side groups the undersecretaries of the Ministries of Industry and Trade, and Health and Welfare, from the Ministries of Education and Foreign Affairs. The North Yemeni side includes senior officials and undersecretaries of several ministries.

Jordan and Oman ratify commercial agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Oman Monday exchanged the ratification documents of commercial and economic agreement concluded between the two countries on July 30, 1986.

The agreement and the minutes of the meeting were signed for Jordan by Ministry of Industry and Trade Under Secretary Mohammad Al Saqqaf and for the Omani side by Oman's Ambassador to Jordan Khamis Ibn Hamad Al Battashi.

The agreement provides for organising the export of agricultural and industrial products to both countries. Products shall be considered as industrial products for importation purposes provided that they have a Jordanian or an Omani certificate of origin and that the value added tax is no more than 40 per cent.

Under the agreement, both

countries agree to develop economic cooperation by setting up joint companies and economic projects in addition to supporting and employing capital from each country in the other.

The agreement also calls for offering the necessary facilities for the transit transport of products from one country to the other.

The agreement further called for the formation of a joint committee to be in charge of the implementation of the provisions of this agreement.

The minutes of the meeting, signed on Feb. 19, provide for discussing the establishment of a holding company for investments and for setting up specialised exhibitions in both countries, in addition to the exchange of visits between trade and industrial delegations from both countries.

University offers research, exam option for Masters

By Najwa Najjar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Contrary to reports published in the newspapers two weeks ago, the University of Jordan's thesis system for students preparing for their M.A. or M.Sc. degrees was not cancelled in any department, said Dr. Subhi Qasem, dean of graduate studies at the University of Jordan. "What happened is that students now have, for the first time, another option to the Masters thesis," said Dr. Qasem. Several faculties are offering a programme at the post graduate level which includes a research project plus a comprehensive examination.

He feels that the aim of the research project is designed to familiarise students with research and scientific methodology while investigating aspects of problems in the Kingdom, Dr. Qasem explained. The comprehensive examination will consist of two papers. In each the student will be tested for three hours on how well he or she can integrate the knowledge he or she has acquired to solve a problem or

the student's ability to do research and that students who plan to continue for a Ph.D should opt for a Masters thesis. By the end of this year most departments will have decided if they want to offer the option or not. "But no students will graduate without doing some kind of research," Dr. Qasem reaffirmed.

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Applications for units at Abu Nuseir flood in

AMMAN (J.T.) — Large numbers of civil servants and other government employees have started applying to the Housing Corporation for housing units at the Abu Nuseir housing estate following the government's new measures to reduce the prices of units and to offer improved facilities for payment.

Housing Corporation Director General Shafiq Zawaideh said that more than 600 employees have so far applied and that the applications are being processed. In the coming days the Housing Corporation expects to be inundated with applications exceeding the number of unsold housing units at Abu Nuseir, Mr. Zawaideh continued. If this happens, he said, the Housing Corporation will give priority to those with a longer period of service in government offices. Mr. Zawaideh made it clear that since there is no longer an advance payment for these units, no priority will be given to those offering larger initial payments for the units.

In accordance with the new government measures, the majority of government employees are now in a position to pay monthly instalments for their units at Abu Nuseir, especially as many are now paying more rent than the instalments, Mr. Zawaideh said. He said that a total of 2,652 housing units are for sale at Abu Nuseir estate, and that they are available for public sector employees at present.

At a press conference in Amman on Sunday, Mr. Zawaideh announced that the government has revised the prices of housing units at Abu Nuseir housing estate and decided on a number of measures to make it easier for beneficiaries to pay their instalments. He said that beneficiaries will not be required to pay an advance payment of 10 per cent of the total cost of the units. The government has also exempted beneficiaries from paying the cost of additional services at the housing estate and the treasury will cover this cost, estimated at JD 30 million, Mr. Zawaideh said.

The Cabinet, in a meeting on Saturday, decided to increase the purchase price per tonne of tomatoes bought on behalf of the Agricultural, Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) by JD 10 a tonne.

The objective behind the step

"is to support tomato farmers who have been facing numerous marketing difficulties due to a 25 years, and will be charging 5.5 per cent interest on the total price of the units in conformity with government decisions, which also said that the remaining unsold units will be offered to public sector employees.

Only half of the land allotted

to the housing estate has been used for the construction of the units and the vacant units were to be available for sale to the public.

The Abu Nuseir estate has been provided with essential services in addition to schools, and public transport facilities.

Farmers who follow the pattern

are requested to grow certain produce which is needed by the country and in return receive subsidies for each dunum of the allocated crops they grow. The

King receives speaker of Romania's National Assembly

Senate, Lower House speakers brief parliamentary delegation on Jordan's stands, Mideast issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received at the Royal Court Mr. Nicolai Giossan, speaker of Romania's National Assembly, who began an official visit to Jordan on Sunday.

The audience was attended by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi,

Senator Amer Khamash, in addition to Secretary General of Parliament Hanafi Kheir and members

of the delegation accompanying Mr. Giossan.

Mr. Lawzi added that the international peace conference, called for by Jordan, is a forum where United Nations resolutions including Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, could be implemented. Israel has always placed obstacles in the way of establishing peace in the region.

Mr. Lawzi and Speaker of the Lower House Akef Al Fayez also received Mr. Giossan in separate meetings and discussed bilateral relations and Romania's role in establishing peace in the region.

Mr. Lawzi stressed the importance of the region and the main reason for the lack of stability in the region. Mr. Lawzi added that the region is lacking all means of security and stability because of the creation of Israel and due to its occupation of Arab territories.

Mr. Lawzi said that Jordan considers the Palestine question to be the central issue in the Middle East conflict and the main reason for the lack of stability in the region. Mr. Lawzi added that the region is lacking all means of security and stability because of the creation of Israel and due to its occupation of Arab territories.

Mr. Lawzi said that Jordan supports the efforts made to unify Lebanon and to put an end to the ongoing fighting between brothers.

Mr. Giossan praised Jordan-Romanian relations and the development of these relations and said that the leaders of the two countries hold identical views on international and pan-Arab issues as a result of their strong friendship.

He added that Romania fully agrees with Jordan on the necessity for an Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and for giving the Palestinian people the right to self determination as well as the need to implement U.N. resolutions.

The implementation of these decisions, he said, are the actual bases for achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Mr. Giossan stressed his country's support for all efforts made towards holding an international peace conference on the

subsidies vary and range from JD 10 to JD 15, depending on the product and the season. AMPCO also runs a tomato paste and juice factory in the Ghor Al Safi area.

One farmer said that as a result of the new decision, the government is paying two subsidies at the same time; one for those who follow the pattern and another to those who follow the pattern and are also growing tomatoes.

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"is to support tomato farmers who have been facing numerous marketing difficulties due to a 25 years, and will be charging 5.5 per cent interest on the total price of the units in conformity with government decisions, which also said that the remaining unsold units will be offered to public sector employees.

This method, the farmer said, could mean that the government's earlier decision to encourage farmers to adhere to growing certain agricultural produce is bearing no fruit and appears to be clashing with the goal behind such a step.

Before the pattern was introduced, some Jordanian farmers opposed the move saying it would not organise the marketing as the growers will be producing the same products.

They also asked the Cabinet to cover the estimated JD 153,000 deficit for 1986.

The proposed dissolution of the association is presently under discussion and stipulates that specialised committees for various agricultural produce be set up to tackle issues related to the production and marketing of the products.

These committees will also form the board members of a general federation for Jordanian farmers.

Tomato price rise to cost JD 2m annually

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A recent Cabinet decision to raise the price of locally produced tomatoes from JD 40 to JD 50 per tonne means that the government will be paying an estimated JD 2 million annually to subsidise production, a senior agriculture official said Monday.

The Cabinet, in a meeting on Saturday, decided to increase the purchase price per tonne of tomatoes bought on behalf of the Agricultural, Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO) by JD 10 a tonne.

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Taken for granted too long

ON the eve of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's 10-day visit to the United States, the Reagan administration has offered his country a new gift in the form of granting the Jewish state the one and only status of a kind, i.e., official ally of the U.S. to make his official visit to Washington start off on "good footing." It has been customary till now for visiting dignitaries to take with them gifts to the receiving states, but in the case of Israel, it is always on the receiving end as far as the U.S. is concerned.

We have known all along that Israel enjoys a special relationship with the U.S. It has been identified as a devout ally or a strategic partner for some time already. But now the "engagement" is official and Israel is referred to as an official ally of the U.S., albeit a non-NATO one. This new status symbol acquired by Israel should generate in it even more arrogance vis-a-vis its Arab neighbours. If anything, the new Israeli status should make the peace process that much more arduous and difficult. As for the idea of the international peace conference which the U.S. secretary of state, George Shultz, wants to discuss amicably with Mr. Shamir, one can only conjecture that the "new efficiency acquired syndrome" obtained by Israel would have a negative effect on the whole idea. But we shall wait and see the outcome of the U.S.-Israeli official talks before we pass definitive judgements.

It would probably be presumptuous on our part to remind the U.S. government that allies of the U.S. usually listen to the counsel offered by Washington and do not spy on it or engage in activities which are detrimental to American national interests. Maybe the U.S. has forgotten the espionage conducted by Jonathan Pollard, the U.S. intelligence analyst who was caught spying for Israel, but we in the Arab World have not. Now we know that Pollard was no small fry but rather a big fish who prejudiced U.S. national and strategic interests in connivance with Israel. Likewise, we may remind the U.S. government that it was Israel which got it involved in the Iran arms scandal in the first place and we all now know the extent of the damage done to the U.S. image and credibility in the Middle East. Yet Israel has still been awarded a big prize, the official recognition of Israel's valuable services to the U.S. national interests beyond the call of duty.

We in the Arab World have become immune to shocks of the kind affecting or relating to U.S.-Israeli relations. If Israel is officially an ally of the U.S., how can we ever compete and hope to receive bona fide recognition and acceptance as valuable countries in the Middle East worthy of U.S. support and assistance? If the U.S. can never sacrifice an inch of Israeli national interests for a mile of Arab just causes, we become duty bound to recalculate our accounts and reexamine our relations with the U.S. It is no longer tenable for us to be taken for granted for so long. If the U.S. cannot strike an equitable balance between Israel and some 20 Arab countries, then we and other Arab countries must make the ultimate decision and choose our final direction in a clear and unambiguous manner.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S., Israel to bolster alliance

ISRAEL'S Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir Monday began a visit to the United States amidst reports that Washington intends to declare Israel as a special ally outside the limits of the NATO alliance, and Washington's agreement to the convening of an international conference. But a keen observer of political events and developments can clearly see that the strategic alliance which actually exists between Washington and Tel Aviv needs no such declaration about a new alliance, and is obvious to all that the two sides are almost in total agreement on every issue and every policy concerning the Middle East and other world issues. Therefore Shamir's visit to the United States could be considered as an internal visit which would not aim at any change in objectives but rather a means of achieving the common goals. The strong alliance between the United States and Israel is of a kind that can outweigh all the peripheral and secondary differences that sometimes crop up between them including one that shocked the American public as a result of the espionage activity conducted by an Israeli agent in the United States.

Al Dustour: Shamir shuns peace

UPON boarding his plane for Washington, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir made it clear in a statement to the press that he would not accept any proposal from Washington about the convening of an international conference on the Middle East. Shamir's views represent the official Israeli ideas about any dealings with the U.S. or the Arabs although the Labour party in Israel has other views that accept some sort of a conference. We can only wait and see the outcome of Shamir's meetings in Washington and the result of his talks with American officials on the idea of this conference; and we will see if he can change Washington's position in this respect. Washington has been accustomed to changing its official policies with regard to the Middle East whenever Israel is opposing them. Most world nations are now in favour of such a conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict but one cannot guess about Washington's stand when it comes to hearing Israel's ideas. We actually expect Washington to come out in favour of Shamir's ideas and reverse its declaration about its acceptance of the idea of the international conference. But we are determined to hold on to our stand and continue to demand such a conference regardless of the U.S.-Israeli stands.

Sawt Al Shabab: Time for educational reforms

PRINCE Hassan's speech to educationalists and teachers in Irbid on Sunday was an embodiment of modern education which should be absorbed and implemented at a national level. The educational process as Prince Hassan pointed out should be regarded from the point of view of its ability to achieve the objectives and serve the interests of the Jordanian community. Education, he said, is an objective and a means at the same time, and serves the developing nations which look forward towards achieving progress and prosperity. Education should be directed towards serving the objectives of the community and should not be used as a means of merely graduating students from educational institutions without clear aim or target. Prince Hassan said that one quarter of a million Jordanians will have graduated from universities by the turn of the present century; and their existence presents a new challenge for the community they live in. Prince Hassan said that sound measures in administration and education should be followed if the graduates are not to become frustrated, and if the country they want to serve wishes to benefit. Prince Hassan made it clear that the universities and other educational institutions shoulder a serious responsibility in this respect and therefore, should present new concepts of education and offer practical means for serving the community.

The View From Second Circle

A Vote for Humility among the Ruins

THOUGH I have not figured them out yet, I am absolutely sure that there are important parallels between contemporary events and what happened in our ancient land hundreds and even thousands of years ago. It is unfortunate that the intellectual balkanisation of modern man, in our age of narrow-focus specialists and experts, means there is little interplay between those amongst us who are inclined towards political developments, and those who spend most of their time studying the past, whether as historians, archaeologists, theologians, epigraphists or whatever other specialities one may profess.

If you think about it for a while, it would seem logical and productive that our political leaders and scholars of history would engage one another in a supremely symbiotic and productive relationship, if they had the time and the will to do so. After all, when you take away the fancy wrapping and the big words, what do we have of enduring substance other than the history from whence we emanate, and the immediate priorities which we seek to meet?

When I use the term "political leaders," I do in the very broadest sense, meaning not only overtly political folk like a) members of the government, b) members of the parliament, c) angry, high-morality, impeccably Arabist newspaper columnists, or d) all those others in society trying to join the ranks of the above. I also mean people in positions to influence other people, to engage in and perhaps sometimes even define the rich public and private debate in our society about matters of over-riding public interest, such as the appropriate customs duties on disposable diapers (or — if you were swaddled, educated or otherwise culturally conditioned within the vast imperial clasp of Mother Britain — nappies), the relevance or otherwise of traffic circles (or — etc. — roundabouts), whether our students wear or do not wear school uniforms, and so on and so forth.

Among the political leaders I think of, other than elected and appointed government officials, are school teachers, business executives, leaders of professional and charitable groups, artists, religious personalities and traditional tribal leaders.

Many years ago, when I was studying political science at university, one of the few things I learned that I still remember was a definition of politics and political power, though the experience was obviously not overwhelming, because I cannot remember the fellow's name who coined the definition. It defined politics as the process by which societies selected people who made choices about

the allocation of scarce resources.

Political folk — that is, decision-makers and moulders of public opinion at all levels — and students of history should spend much more time together, particularly, in countries and societies such as ours, where our histories are a great deal longer than our memories, and our resources rather more scarce than our human legacy.

I started having these thoughts several years ago, when my interest in contemporary politics was matched by an interest in our ancient history. The more I studied both, the more I realised that virtually all of what is happening around us today, in the political, social, economic, military or technological spheres, has happened in slightly different forms in the past.

What's your fancy? Persians knocking at the eastern gateway of the Arab World? Israels threatening and occupying Arab lands? Shifting alliances among Arab political leaderships, tribes, confederations of tribes, countries, and entire civilisations? Ethnic banditry in the mountains along the east Mediterranean coastal plain? The lands of Syria and Egypt vying for political leadership of the region? Small, local Semitic states seeking security by allying themselves with foreign superpowers?

There is little that is qualitatively innovative in the Middle East today. The magnitude and technical sophistication of what we do is different and larger; but the human impetus is not. The factors that have always caused communities to cultivate and harness their human power, and to develop into durable states based on the best interest of their people, are timeless factors ingrained in human nature, rather than political factors embedded in a specific period of time or national identity.

The historians, archaeologists and other scholars of the past would say that they study the past for a better understanding of the development of ancient societies, which in turn might help us make those decisions today which would help us improve our own societies. My own impression, having looked into what happened on this land in ancient history while keeping an eye on what's going on today, is that the study of history has an added attraction that should be absolutely compelling for us, during an era when our foreign debt is rising, our reliance on external sources of financing remains very high and the value of what we produce is several times greater than the value of what we consume. That added

attraction is a sense of humility, and humbleness, in the face of the human endeavour on this same land during the past, oh, ten thousand years or so.

We have drawn on foreign money and foreign expertise. We have tried all sorts of fancy new technology. We have examined developmental concepts and theories of impressive complexity. But we seem largely to have ignored perhaps the single most relevant, field-tested resource within our grasp: Our own historical experience, in a land that has been drenched with history and human exploits.

I am not suggesting that ours is a failed society that should seek solace or salvation in past glories and ancient myths. To the contrary, I think we have an enviable record of human development and nation-building, of which we can be proud. But the challenges that face us today — unemployment, urban sprawl, socio-economic disparities, regional instability, capital flight, and rising political and material expectations, all within the context of political structures that have remained static for decades — cannot be solved by the same means that we have successfully used during the past half a century.

Most of the problems and challenges we have faced to date have been resolvable by the force of feasibility studies, joint ventures, new government agencies or new share issues on the stock market. That was during the initial historical phase of nation-building. Today, the challenges are much deeper. They are the challenges of sustaining and strengthening a nation, of endurance and creativity, of commitment and belonging, for which the terminology and technology of the mid-20th century suddenly seem irrelevant.

While we should appreciate that most of the themes and human impulses that define our land today are only the latest versions of patterns that have preceded us many times before, we would do well to recognise the fact that our region is rich in archaeological ruins. It's hard to walk anywhere in our ancient and holy land without stumbling over the ruins of successive ancient civilisations, whose common attribute was their eventual demise and destruction. Our historians and archaeologists have spent many years studying the reasons why our predecessors did not endure. I would think that they might have some useful anecdotes and information to share these days, should we have the inclination to be curious about all those ruins of ours.

New battle brewing in U.S. Congress over contra aid

By Valerie Strauss
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan's pet project, funding for the Nicaraguan contra rebels, has been damaged by the Iran arms scandal but the programme has not yet been dealt the knock-out blow sought by its opponents.

The first skirmish on the issue between Reagan and the new Democratic-dominated Congress may be waged this week, when \$40 million outstanding from last year's \$100 million in military and other aid for the contras is released.

Once Reagan announces his intention to use the money, Congress has 15 days to pass blocking legislation by a simple majority in both houses.

If Congress does so, Reagan is

virtually certain to veto the move. Congress must then muster a two-thirds majority to override the veto, which is considered unlikely.

Legislators who plan to try to block the funds admit there is little likelihood of success for the moment.

"Procedurally, the odds are against us, but that doesn't mean the effort should not be made," said representative Sam Gejdenson, a Democrat.

"Once we get past the present process, where the president has a clear advantage, it's a whole new ball game," said Gejdenson.

And other congressmen are setting their sights on a second, perhaps decisive, battle later this year, when Reagan asks Congress for about \$105 million in new money for the rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista government.

Opponents believe they can defeat the request because the contra programme has been seriously weakened by the Iran scandal and fresh signs of leadership disarray among the rebels.

Many congressmen have been infuriated by indications the White House may have circumvented their laws against funding the contras by secretly diverting to the rebels millions of dollars in profits from 1983-86 weapons sales to Tehran.

In the absence of popular support for contra funding, the programme depends heavily on Reagan himself but his credibility has been undermined by the Iran affair. Some polls show more Americans now trust Congress over foreign policy than they do Reagan, who once declared: "I'm

a contra too."

U.S. contra aid began in 1982 but Congress cut it off in 1984 after the CIA was involved in mining Nicaragua's harbours.

Humanitarian aid resumed in 1985 and Congress approved renewed military assistance last year, largely because Reagan applied his political might on the undecided.

Supporters fear the Iran affair has left him too weak to repeat that success, particularly since Democrats added the Senate to their control of the House in last November's elections.

"People in the middle won't go down for the president again," Gejdenson said.

Administration cohesion on the contra's programme was thrown into doubt last week when Secretary of State George Shultz

and Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, appeared at odds over the effectiveness of the contras and America's strategic alternatives.

Shultz said last Wednesday the contras were making significant gains in their war and an end to the funding would be a tragedy.

The next day he said by supporting the contras Washington could avoid direct military involvement.

Crowe said on Thursday the contras had made no progress in forcing political change and must improve their record or risk losing U.S. military men opposed to intervention.

Legislators and House and Senate aides see a shift in attitude about the contras on Capitol Hill.

Some early aid supporters,

such as senator Larry Pressler, a conservative Republican from South Dakota, have begun to express doubts because of a seeming lack of success on the military or political fronts.

"Are we backing the right team?" he demanded at a congressional hearing where Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams said the programme was vital "to defeat Soviet-backed subversion and militarisation in Nicaragua."

Internal divisions have not helped the contra cause.

Arturo Cruz, one of three leaders of the rebel United Nicaraguan Opposition, has said he may quit because of constant bickering over tactics.

Of all the contra leaders, Cruz is the most respected in Washington.

E. German leader grooms young successor

By Mark Heinrich
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Erich Honecker, the strong-willed and pragmatic leader of Communist East Germany, appears to be grooming a successor young enough to be his son.

West German experts say Honecker, 74, is preparing Egon Krenz, 49, to head a new East Berlin leadership that will eventually replace the now-elderly generation in power for much of the state's 37-year existence.

While details of his personal background and life are scant, Krenz cuts an athletic, outgoing image unusual in the stiff, conformist world of Communist politics.

He is known to jog and water ski to stay in shape. Photographs in a 1984 profile of Krenz in West Germany's Stern magazine showed him in the blue uniform of the Free German Youth, the state organisation he led for nine years.

In 1983 Krenz invited West German avant-garde rock star Udo Lindenberg to lunch in East Berlin, and a widely distributed photograph showed them clinking glasses of milk.

The government says the austerity measures, which devalued the drachma by 15 per cent and restricted imports, has been successful so far.

Official figures show inflation dropped to 16.9 per cent last year from 25 per cent in 1985, while the current account deficit fell to \$1.8 billion from a record \$3.3 billion.

Diplomats however, estimate last year's inflation rate at more than 25 per cent and say lower oil prices and international interest rates contributed to the current account deficit fall.

This year, Papandreou hopes to reduce the current account shortfall to \$1.25 billion and cut inflation to around 10 per cent.

According to economy ministry figures, Greek exports rose slightly in the first 11 months of last year to \$4.9 billion from \$4.1 billion in the same period in 1985. Imports fell to \$10.2 billion from \$11.4 billion.

Greek industrialists have called for even more action to tackle the structural weakness of the economy and encourage investment.

"The government is right to continue with austerity but it's not enough to get us out of the deadlock," a source at the Athens chamber of commerce and industry told Reuters.

"To tackle inflation in the right way you have to cut the public sector deficits and this hasn't been done yet."

ensure domestic stability, Honecker has gained room to apply homegrown pragmatism in inter-German relations. West Germans now have little difficulty visiting family and friends in East Germany.

The question of Honecker's successor now looms on the horizon.

Last April at the nation's Communist party congress, Honecker elevated Krenz and three comrades in their mid-50s to the elite ruling politburo, where officials in their 70s have dominated in recent years.

"The gradual removal of rule by old men in the GDR (East Germany) isn't precisely comparable to what's going on in Moscow, since Honecker, unlike Gorbatchev, doesn't need to solidify his power any more," said Guenter Buch, a West Berlin-based authority on East Germany.

International Red Cross works to bind up the world's wounds

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — His name is Paul, he's from the Swiss canton of Aargau, and his problem is five missing cans of vegetable oil.

What's a young Swiss doing in the hinterland of Ethiopia's Eritrea region, worrying about vegetable oil? Like many of his 500 counterparts around the world, Paul is part of a lifeline, in this case to starving Ethiopians. Strict accountability for food supplies is crucial.

The lifeline is the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Ethiopia has been one of its costliest operations. Among some 80 foreign relief groups represented in Ethiopia, only the ICRC has concentrated on the civil-war zones of Tigray and Eritrea.

"Like yodeling club"

Private and composed solely of Swiss citizens, from Swiss law the ICRC is, as its director general says, "an association just like any bowling or yodeling club."

Yet, by solemn agreement, 164 sovereign states enable it to aid hundreds of thousands of people around the world, some in deadly danger, writes Peter T. White in the November 1986, National Geographic. They are victims in one way or another of the dozens of armed conflicts and upheavals around the globe.

The work can be miserable and dangerous. Last year the ICRC

visited 60,000 prisoners in 35 countries. Since World War II, some 20 delegates have been killed while on duty.

To interview prisoners of war in the Western Saharan conflict that pits Morocco against the Polisario Front, ICRC delegates undertook a round trip by Land-Rover through more than 600 miles of roadless desert in 110-degree heat.

In anarchic Lebanon, delegates have learned the code of camouflage, spoken on the ICRC radio frequency. "When you see weapons, you say 'toys,'" explains a delegate. "Tanks are frogs. Fighting is 'playing'... And you don't say dead bodies, you say 'thoroughly'."

Eruption of war between Mali and Burkina Faso, or bloody uprising in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, means that virtually overnight, delegates will be on the scene, repatriating prisoners and evacuating wounded. "They just unfurl the flag and barge right into no-man's-land," says National Geographic photographer Steve Rayner.

Americans, too, have benefited from the ICRC. When the 39 hostages from hijacked TWA flight 847 were released in Beirut, for example, they left in white ICRC cars with big Red Cross markings.

1,000 on staff

Financed primarily by voluntary contributions from governmen-

talts, the ICRC operates quietly to protect victims of man-made disaster at any time, anywhere — in war, civil war, and politically induced disturbances. Its staff — 500 in its Geneva headquarters and 500 in the field — is all Swiss to maintain neutrality.

"What's important for the

Israelis, for example, is to be certain that no Arabs or friends of the Arab control or influence the committee," explains the director general. "And what's important for the Arabs is that neither the Israelis nor their friends control or influence it."

That the country in charge happens to be Switzerland is an accident of history. "We could have been from Sweden, or Liechtenstein," he says.

The theory that sustains the

ICRC's work is rooted in the text of the Geneva Conventions of 1949: In armed conflict, soldiers will have the right to kill opposing soldiers. But "persons taking no active part in the hostilities shall in all circumstances be treated humanely."

In this spirit, the ICRC will ask both sides to let it visit their prisoners in order to learn how they are being treated. And civilians may ask the ICRC for medical help and for food for children and pregnant women, all of which both sides should let pass freely. The ICRC is pledged to be absolutely neutral and impartial, taking no part in ideological or political controversies.

Bernhard, a delegate from the

canton of Valais, meets a prisoner in El Salvador who bears lesions, allegedly from electric shocks. In response, an ICRC doctor will examine the prisoner, and if the injuries are confirmed, the ICRC may send a report of bad treatment to Salvadoran authorities, strongly worded but strictly confidential. Such quiet remonstrances often bring good results, White writes.

The ICRC has expanded greatly in the past two decades, with major operations in Biafra in 1968, Bangladesh in 1971, and Kampuchea (Cambodia) in 1979,

and a gigantic operation along the

Thai-Kampuchean border that peaked in 1980.

Failure in Vietnam

Yet there have been notable failures. During the Vietnam War, for example, the ICRC was never allowed to visit any U.S. servicemen imprisoned in North Vietnam.

The ICRC constantly negotiates for access to political detainees arrested in situations of international tension not covered by international agreement. Currently it is negotiating for access

Geneva-based, all-Swiss ICRC, operating in strict neutrality, aids hundreds of thousands of the world's needy. Its diverse work, carried on by a staff of 1,000, is often dangerous.

in Turkey, Guatemala, and Sri Lanka, and has striven to help the families of people detained under emergency laws in South Africa.

The committee resulted from the vision of Swiss businessman Henry Dunant, who in 1859 saw suffering men wounded in a battle between Austrian and allied French and Sardinian troops.

Shocked, he wrote a memoir that inspired creation of the ICRC and of national Red Cross societies worldwide. The reverse of the Swiss flag, a red cross on a white background, became the group's lasting symbol.

Much abused Leonardo masterpiece closed to the public

By Daniel Liefgreen
Reuter

MILAN — Napoleon's troops threw stones at it, overzealous restorers crudely repainted it, World War II allied bombers left it surrounded by rubble. Leonardo da Vinci's fresco, the Last Supper, has been dubbed the world's most abused masterpiece.

Now Italian cultural officials say the 15th-century fresco must be closed indefinitely to the public in order to complete its latest restoration, the fourth this century.

The closure is expected sometime this month, after which visitors will no longer be allowed inside the former monastic refectory in Milan's Santa Maria delle Grazie church to see what art historian Ernst Gombrich called "one of the great miracles wrought by human genius."

Further studies are needed of the severe damage caused by nearby traffic, temperature changes inside the church and thick layers of dust. Officials believe these cannot be carried out amidst the daily crush of staring tourists.

"One doesn't like to close off the public, but if we want to protect the original work we have to take the decision," Rosalba Tardito, Milan's cultural superintendent, told Reuters in an interview.

"Unlike a Raphael or a Caravaggio, we can't bring it (the Last Supper) into a laboratory to restore it," she said.

The closure decision has not been popular. "It'll be out of work," snapped a church worker to a journalist during a recent visit to the site. Milan's new mayor, Paolo Pillitteri, backed by hotel owners, said the move

would damage the city's tourism. The Milan branch of the Christian Democratic Party has proposed installation of a closed circuit television system during the restoration so visitors can see the 30-foot wide fresco painted by da Vinci between 1495 and 1497.

Piùm Brambilla Barcilon is the director of the current restoration, which began in 1976.

Standing on the scaffolding

under the fresco, she spends her days methodically removing five centuries of grime and paint staining da Vinci's work.

From a distance, the left side of

the fresco seemed to be covered in shadows. Up close, the benefits of Barcilon's labour could be seen clearly. Orange slices and pewter plates, once obscured on the table, now seemed lifelike.

"The faces (of the apostles)

have emotions now, there's spirituality at the dinner table," Bar-

cilicon said. "Look at Mathew's mouth, it's open and moving now."

Working under the public gaze clearly disturbed Barcilon. In mid-afternoon the dark, dense refection was jammed with camerawielding tourists, many of whom ignored signs banning flash pictures.

Tourists pestered her constantly, Barcilon said. "They usually ask me to get out of the way so they can take their pictures."

Among her tools are two big

microscopes resembling large dental X-ray machines that magnify paint fragments 40 times. It takes

about a week to restore an area

the size of a postage stamp.

"It's very difficult, exhausting

work. Some days I work eight

hours, some days I just can't

work at all because I have to take breaks," Barcilon told Reuters.

The unusual technique by

da Vinci in the fresco, which he

painted for Duke Ludovico Sforza of Milan, then one of Europe's most powerful rulers, has contributed to the deterioration.

At the time, most frescos were painted quickly and directly on wet plaster. But da Vinci used a white primer so he could paint slowly. By 1517, only 20 years after it was completed, the paint had begun to flake.

In addition, temperature

changes between the frescoed

wall and the room behind it occa-

sionally trigger minor tremors

that crack the paint. Earlier tests

have shown these changes occur

when large groups of tourists

enter and leave the refectory.

Earlier in the 18th century, in

one of the nine or 10 restorations

the fresco has undergone in its

history, paint was overlaid on the

original so crudely that it had

later to be removed with a scalpel.

Barcilon wiped the floor of the

scaffolding with her finger, which

instantly became caked with dust.

"This is a major problem that has

to be resolved, and it's not possi-

ble with people around. In order

to refurbish your house, you have to remove the furniture."

She sighed when asked when her restoration would be finished. "I'm at the half-way point, and it's taken me more than five years. I don't need a deadline. It's a big enough responsibility, especially when everybody is constantly watching you."

The care taken by modern restorers is in sharp contrast to the fresco's abuse in the past. In 1796 Napoleon's troops occupying Milan used the refectory as an armoury and stable. They threw stones at da Vinci's apostles and climbed ladders to scratch out their eyes.

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later to be removed with a scalpel.

Ministry spokesman Cent van

Vliet said: "It is a good thing that the subject is breaking out into the open." He said a foundation would be easier to deal with than a semi-anonymous working group.

Defense State Secretary Jan

van Houwelingen was ready in

Oman fights to keep its own identity in Gulf

By Stephen Jukes
Reuter

which juts out into the Strait of Hormuz and looks across to Iran's naval base of Bandar Abbas.

The entrance to the strategic Gulf made it inevitable that Oman's early history should be that of a seafaring nation.

But in recent years the waterway has been dragged into the bitter Gulf war as Iran and Iraq carry out regular missile and helicopter attacks on oil tankers and merchant ships.

Oman has been thrust into role of guardian of the straits.

Its navy, including British-built gunboats, also enforces a scheme to avoid collisions in the 23-mile bottleneck, still a key artery for oil exports to the West.

This year some 521 million rials (\$1.4 billion) is earmarked for defence, 32 per cent of total budget outlay.

Joint manoeuvres late last year with British forces in "Operation Swift Sword" testify to the close links with Western powers such as Britain, the United States and France — which also have warships patrolling the Gulf.

Just a few miles from Muscat, a bustling financial centre, Ruwi, has been created on a former desert airstrip.

The fertile Batinah coastal strip stretching north towards the UAE is at first lined with garages selling both high performance cars and family saloons. But the huge neon signs of the Toyota dealers quickly give way to ramshackle auto repair shops.

Oman's third five-year plan begun in 1986 aims at developing areas away from the capital, but austerity measures have meant cuts. Economists say pruning will not alter the objectives — which include fostering the private sector — but will slow development in the rest of the country.

The 1986 budget deficit was more than three times the planned level and hit \$70 million rials (\$1.8 billion).

Some Omanis argue privately that harsher times are no bad thing, enforcing careful use of oil revenues and heading off a trend towards consumerism.

About 160 miles north of Muscat, the coastal town of Sohar is Oman's third largest settlement with 45,000 inhabitants.

The town, which boasts a meticulously-renovated 13th-century fort, is a growing centre for fishing and agriculture, once just subsistence industries.

The highway to Sohar sweeps past a huge dairy and vegetable farm, which has transformed the plain into 400 hectares of irrigated green.

Blood test to detect tumours

By Sally Squires

WASHINGTON — Researchers at the Harvard Medical School reported new details on their work with a blood test that is able to detect the growth of a cancer in the body and appears to help researchers determine which tumours are likely to spread.

Dr. Eric T. Fossel and Dr. Jan McDonagh said the test, which measures special fats in the blood, was able to accurately detect the presence of "all types of tumours" from breast cancer to colon cancer.

The researchers also used the test to follow the progress of two leukemia patients as they underwent chemotherapy. Both patients went into remission — which the test documented. Later the test indicated that one patient relapsed before clinical signs were apparent.

Fossel and McDonagh first reported their findings in the Nov. 26 issue of *The New England Journal of Medicine*. So far, some 331 patients have been screened

with the new blood test. Many researchers have been searching for blood test to detect cancer early, usually by looking for evidence of cancer cells in the blood or other factors that would indicate a tumour is present somewhere in the body.

This new test is unique in its ability to detect changes in the fatty content in a person's blood that indicates something is rapidly growing in the patient. But it cannot determine the type of cancer present, nor can it differentiate between the blood of cancer patients and that of pregnant women or men with enlarged prostate glands.

"We feel that what we are seeing is a response of the body to rapidly dividing cells," Fossel said.

The test uses a technique called nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) to examine changes in blood fats, known as triglycerides. NMR measures signals, known as resonances, that arise from the fat molecules in the blood. Fossel and McDonagh have shown that

the blood fats in people with cancer produce sharp, peaked resonances, unlike people without cancer. They believe that these changes are due to alteration in fats known as triglycerides. Chemical molecules on these fats move faster in people with cancer and are more disordered.

"I will take another two years of testing," Fossel said, before researchers know if the test can be implemented as a standard part of cancer monitoring. The NMR machines cost about \$500,000 each, but they have the capability of performing "hundreds of tests a day," at a cost of about \$50 a test.

The hope is that the test will not only be able to buy time for

Connors pulls up lame, forfeits tourney to Edberg

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Top-seeded Stefan Edberg won his second U.S. Indoor Tennis Championship in the past three years when a knee injury forced no. 2-seed Jimmy Connors to retire in the second set.

Connors, who had lost the first set 3-6, fell to the hard-court surface at the Racquet Club of Memphis after hitting a weak backhand overhead to Edberg in the third game of the second set.

While Connors lay on the court holding his right knee, Edberg easily returned the ball into the open court to break Connors' serve and take a 2-1 lead.

Connors, who now has lost seven straight finals and has not won since 1984, was assisted off the court and attended to during the change over.

After being assessed one penalty point for delay, Connors retired from the match, making Edberg, the 1987 Australian Open champion and the world's no. 2 player, a 6-3, 2-1, winner.

"I really don't remember what happened," Connors said later. "After I hit the shot, I came down and I was leaning back and I tried to go forward and then I can't remember."



Stefan Edberg... brings Connors to his knees
ing set before Edberg took Connors to deuce in game eight. Edberg then passed Connors on the forehead side to reach break point.

Connors fell behind 3-5 when he was unable to reach an Edberg forehand that hit the tape and fell over. Edberg took the set by winning the ninth game at love when Connors netted a backhand from the baseline.

Edberg's winner's share was \$45,000, while Connors received \$22,500.

Chess grandmasters' association to launch World Cup series

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — A new association of chess grandmasters will introduce a World Cup competition and has forced FIDE, the world chess federation, to reschedule its world championship cycle, officials said.

The grandmasters' association, which was founded Sunday, plans to launch a World Cup series of six tournaments in 1988 and 1989 and FIDE, facing increasing pressure from the top players, agreed to extend its world championship cycle from two to three years because of it, FIDE President Florencio Campomanes said.

Observers said the move was a success for the grandmasters' association, led by Soviet world champion Garry Kasparov, and showed the potential power of top players in running chess. Kasparov and Campomanes have been embroiled in a sometimes bitter dispute since 1985.

"It is a big success which shows the power and independence of the players. They will be able to work more professionally now," said one official who attended the meeting but asked to remain anonymous.

"Although Campomanes said

each play four of the six tournaments. The 16-player events would take place on as many different continents as possible.

Sources have said that the World Cup prize money would consist of some \$400,000 on top of the prize money for each of the individual tournaments. In comparison, Kasparov only got \$5,000 for winning the two-week Ohrn Tournament in Brussels in December.

With the new association, Kasparov, 23, wants to make the game more popular, trying to attract spectators and the media and to boost earnings.

Some of the top grandmasters have had increasingly acrimonious relations with FIDE over the last years, arguing the organisation was autocratically run by Campomanes, a Filipino. Campomanes was recently reelected by the FIDE member countries to another four-year term as president.

The board of the grandmasters' association consists of Soviets Kasparov and Anatoli Karpov, Briton John Nunn, U.S. player Yasser Seirawan, Hungarian Lajos Portisch, Yugoslav Ljubo Juric, Ljubojevic and Jan Timman of the Netherlands.

Soccer administrators make complicated changes

By Robert Millward
Associated Press

LONDON — Former England soccer manager Ron Greenwood once said: "Soccer is a simple game. The hard part is making it look simple."

Some of Europe's soccer administrators seem to be having a hard time coping with the ups and downs of the game.

Authorities in England, Switzerland and Spain all have devised complicated new systems to determine either the title race or promotion and relegation issues in their respective countries.

These involve season-ending playoffs or carving up the leagues

into two or three sections. And the motives for the changes also differ.

While English officials have reacted to calls for pruning the First Division programme — each team plays 42 matches — the Spaniards want to do the opposite and fill out their season with revenue-earning matches.

The Swiss plan to reduce their 16-team First Division by four clubs, using complicated playoffs.

Until this season in England, the top three teams from Division Two replaced the bottom three in Division One at the end of each league campaign.

Now, the promotion-relegation system is to change as the First Division is reduced to 20 teams

over the next two seasons, and even die-hard soccer fans are trying to get to understand the new format.

Three teams will still automatically go down from Division One at the end of the current season but only two will go up.

To make the new plan work,

officials instead have devised a playoff series, whereby the team that finished fourth from bottom plays off against the third, fourth and fifth-placed teams in the Second Division.

Football league spokesman Andy Williamson said the main motive for introducing the playoffs was to maintain the interest of a greater number of clubs and their supporters in the last few weeks of the campaign.

In the closing stages of the season, the division polarises and

matches which have very little bearing on the promotion and relegation issues," Williamson told the Associated Press.

"The playoffs may seem complicated, but they mean that more clubs will have something to play for."

The Swiss plan to cut its First Division from the present 16 teams to 12 sets up the possibility of six Division-One teams being relegated in one of Europe's most complicated soccer structures.

The bottom two clubs automatically will drop to Division Two, while the four clubs immediately above will fight over two Division-One places with four teams from the lower flight.

The Swiss Championship will be staged in two parts, along the neighbouring Austria.

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OPERA

Tel: 675573

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Tel: 622198

HITCHER

Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Pole conquers Nepal mountain

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Polish mountaineer Jerzy Kukuczka has climbed Annapurna I — his 13th conquest of a peak taller than 8,000 metres (26,240 feet). Nepal's Ministry of Tourism said Monday that Kukuczka, 38, reached the summit of the 8,091-metre (26,538-foot) Annapurna I, the world's ninth tallest mountain, on Feb. 3, accompanied by fellow Pole Artur Hajzer, 24. Kukuczka now needs to climb only the 8,046-metre (26,390-foot) Xixapangma in Tibet to complete his effort to climb all 14 of the world's peaks taller than 8,000 metres.

Platini escapes car crash injury

TURIN, Italy (R) — French World Cup star Michel Platini escaped unhurt when his car crashed as he was returning to his Turin home at the weekend, police said. Platini's car skidded on a wet road and hit a parked car late on Saturday night, they said. The Juventus player and his family were going home from a meal in a nearby restaurant. Platini's wife Christel and daughter Marine suffered slight injuries, but were treated in hospital and released the same night. His young son, Laurent, was unhurt.

Allen-Cooksey sets U.S. pentathlon mark

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — Tony Allen-Cooksey set an American mark while capturing his second straight national pentathlon title at the USA-TAC National Pentathlon Championships. Allen-Cooksey, representing the Athletes Forte of southern California, totalled 4,315 points Sunday night, breaking the mark of 4,119 points set in 1984 by Scott Daniels. The pentathlon consists of the 60-metre hurdles, long jump, shot put, high jump and 1,000 metre run. Rob Muzzio of George Mason University, the 1985 NCAA decathlon champion, was second with 4,090 points, while teammate Keith Young was third with 4,008.

Americans win bobsled races

LAKE PLACID, New York (AP) — American Matt Roy piloted a redesigned sled to victory in the World Cup two-man bobsled races at Mount Van Hoevenberg. Roy, who estimates he has driven his bobsled down Mount Van Hoevenberg more than 600 times during his seven years in bobsledding, won the same event one year ago. He posted the three fastest times of the four-heat event Sunday in piling up a comfortable winning margin of more than a second over the runnerup British sled driven by Mark Tout with David Armstrong on the brake.

E. Germans win biathlon relay

LAKE PLACID, New York (AP) — Frank-Peter Roetsch completed his domination of the World Cup Biathlon Championships by leading his East German team to a gold medal in the relay event. The East German relay team covered the 7.5-metre course in a combined time of 1 hour, 25 and 2.30 minutes, more than two minutes, ahead of the second-place Soviet team. West Germany finished third. It was the third gold medal for the East German in th World Championships of the sport that combines elements of cross country skiing and marksmanship. Roetsch also won gold medals in the 10 and 20 kilometre races held at Lake Placid's Mount Van Hoevenberg this weekend.

American-best time wins 200 metres

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AP) — James Butler won the 200 metres at the Gator Open Indoor Track meet Sunday in an American-best time of 20.84 sec. Butler's time is the third best ever and beat the previous American best of 20.84 set by Mel Lattany of Georgia in 1983. The meet is the Stephen C. O'Connell Centre served as the U.S. trials in the men's 200 and 400 metres for the IAAF World Indoor Championships scheduled March 6-8 in Indianapolis. Kirk Baptiste, the 1984 Olympic silver medallist at 200 metres, was timed in 20.86 Sunday to join Butler on the U.S. team. University of Florida sophomore Dennis Mitchell, the only collegian in the field, set a collegiate indoor record with his third place clocking of 21.03.

Britain's Phillips tours Jordan's equestrian facilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — Captain Mark Phillips, United Kingdom Olympic rider and international expert on equestrian sports, is visiting Jordan this week upon the invitation of Her Majesty Queen Noor to help assess efforts underway to establish a national equestrian society. During his stay, Capt. Phillips will visit various equestrian facilities in Jordan and meet those interested in this developing sport.

A demonstration of show jumping was held Monday afternoon at the Arabian Horse club.

Attending the event were Her Majesty Queen Noor, Her Royal Highness Princess Alia, Her Royal Highness Princess Haya, Sherif Saad, Sandra Saad, Sara Kabariti, Chris Wegeles, Steve Jahshan, Hana Jahshan, Lubna Ezzedin, Hani Bisharat, and Zaid Bitar.

Elliott wins Daytona 500 car race

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Bill Elliott won his second Daytona 500 as defending champion Geoff Bodine, losing a high-stakes gamble, ran out of gas three laps from the end at Daytona International Speedway.

Elliott, the 1985 winner, out-muscled the fastest field in Daytona history most of the day Sunday. But he had to watch and wait in the last 13 laps as Bodine took a calculated risk by staying on the racetrack, hoping to squeeze 45 laps of racing out of a nearly-empty gas tank.

Bodine got in 42 laps and was about 20 seconds in the lead on the 2.5-mile (4-kilometre) track when his Chevrolet sputtered and quit. The engine stopped just after he had passed the pit entrance, forcing him to roll slowly around the track while Elliott's Ford Thunderbird and the rest of the lead cars roared past.

Elliott then held off Benny Parsons for the victory.

The winner crossed the finish line just six-tenths of a second ahead of Parsons. Seven-time Daytona 500 winner Richard Petty came in third, followed by Buddy Baker, Dale Earnhardt, Bobby Allison, Ken Schrader and Darrell Waltrip.

Elliott averaged 176.263 mph (283 kph) — the second-fastest Daytona race — and won a NASCAR record \$204,150. Bodine's \$192,715 was the old mark.

Maree wins mile with sub-four-minute race

FAIRFAX, Virginia (R) — South African-born Sydney Maree ran his first sub-four-minute mile of the season Sunday afternoon, winning the feature event at the Fairfax Invitational Indoor Athletics Meeting in three minutes, 58.11 seconds.

The time wasn't as fast as some of Maree's other miles — he ran 5:52.40 in 1985 — but the pleasure was almost the same. Many of the runners in the field had beaten Maree, an American citizen since 1984, Friday night in another Grand Prix meeting in Hamilton, Ontario.

So Maree went out hard and assumed command from pacemaker Charlie Freda with about 1,000 metres to go and never relinquished the lead despite numerous challenges. He eventually won by about a metre over Kenya's Kip Cheruiyot, who was timed in 3:58.24.

The Swiss Championship will be staged in two parts, along the neighbouring Austria.

The previous best for the event, for which there is no recognised world record, was 6:43.59 by Italy's Giuliana Salce.

The American record also fell in the event. Maryanne Torellas, who Saturday night had set a world indoor best of 6:01.16 in beating Peel in the 1,500-metre walk at East Rutherford, N.J., lowered the U.S. standard to 6:40.52 for the mile walk as she finished second.

The previous American record was 6:50.0 by Terese Vail earlier this month.

Call: 664839

Colombo vows to pursue army offensive until rebels lay down arms

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's current military offensive will continue until separatist Tamil guerrillas end hostilities and begin peace talks, a senior minister has said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali told a meeting over the weekend that "if the terrorists lay down their arms and come to the negotiating table we will certainly stop all armed operations against them."

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the largest rebel group fighting for an independent homeland, has refused to enter into direct talks with the government and rejected its proposal for the creation of provincial councils as a means of ending alleged discrimination against Tamils.

At least 57 people were killed over the weekend as security forces consolidated and strengthened their positions in their offensive in the northern and eastern provinces.

Sixteen LTTE rebels, including two local leaders and their explosives expert, were killed Sunday when explosives they were fitting to a water tanker and tractor blew up in a garage in the northern town of Kaithady, according to

a government spokesman.

The spokesman said an unknown number of civilians were also killed in the blast. The rebels had planned to attack the nearby Navatkuli army camp with the explosives-laden tanker, he said.

The government's media centre said the 30 Tamil guerrillas were killed Sunday night when special task force commandos captured a rebel headquarters in the village of Kiriadukadu near Batticaloa, in eastern Sri Lanka.

A spokesman said the hideout belonged to the rebel group Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Sources reached by phone in Batticaloa told AP they were unaware of a government raid in Kiriadukadu, about 19 kilometres to the south.

The government denied a report in Monday's independent Sun newspaper that said the present military offensive, now in its tenth day, had been halted to give troops time to rest.

The paper also said the offen-

sive had been suspended because some ministers believed this would help create a more positive climate for the resumption of Indian-sponsored peace talks.

Spokesman Tilak Ratnayaka told Reuters the story was "false and unfounded" and no instructions had gone out to stop the operation, which he said was "continuing successfully."

Authoritative sources said an exchange of messages between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene last week included a request by Mr. Gandhi that the Sri Lankan government halts the offensive and lift a seven-week old fuel embargo on the Jaffna peninsula.

Instead, they rewrote its preamble and asked Mr. Arias to give it to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, and invite Mr. Ortega to meet with them in Esquipulas, Guatemala, within 90 days.

Mr. Ortega, who has called the Costa Rican initiative part of a U.S. plot to politically isolate Nicaragua, was excluded from the Free Democratic Party (FDP) in return for tax breaks for Flick.

The three had been on trial for 17 months. They had pleaded

San Jose summit fails to agree on peace plan

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP) — The presidents of four Central American nations failed to agree Sunday night on a new peace plan for the region. But they said they would invite Nicaragua's chief executive to meet with them to discuss the proposal.

President Oscar Arias of Costa Rica proposed the 10-point plan, which calls for "democratisation" and new election in Nicaragua, and asked the leaders of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras to sign it and present to Nicaragua as an ultimatum.

Instead, they rewrote its preamble and asked Mr. Arias to give it to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega, and invite Mr. Ortega to meet with them in Esquipulas, Guatemala, within 90 days.

All three were acquitted of corruption charges arising from allegations that Mr. Lambdorff and Mr. Friderichs took bribes from Mr. Brauchitsch for their Free Democratic Party (FDP) in return for tax breaks for Flick.

The three had been on trial for 17 months. They had pleaded

Lambsdorff fined for tax evasion but cleared of corruption charges

BONN (Agencies) — Former West German Economics Minister Otto Lambsdorff was convicted by a court in Bonn Monday of evading on donations to political party funds but was cleared of more serious charges of corruption.

Mr. Lambsdorff, 60, was fined 180,000 marks (\$100,000) on the tax evasion count.

His predecessor as minister, Hans Friderichs, was fined 61,500 marks (\$34,000) for evading tax and the former general manager of the Flick industrial company, Eberhard von Brauchitsch, was given a two-year suspended jail sentence and a 550,000 mark (\$306,000) fine.

Mr. Friderichs was found guilty of evading or aiding the evasion of 1.5 million marks (\$850,000) in taxes on donations to the FDP while he was the party's treasurer in the state of north Rhine-Westphalia in the 1970s.

The money was alleged to have been channelled to the party illegally through non-profit organisations whose status exempted them from tax.

Mr. Brauchitsch, who resigned as FDP general manager in 1982, was found to have evaded taxes of almost 18 million marks

(\$1 billion) for the company on party donations and on the proceeds of currency transactions.

Mr. Friderichs was convicted of evading taxes of 1.6 million marks (\$880,000) in political party donations from the Dresdner Bank, which he headed from the time of his resignation as minister in 1977 until 1982.

The corruption charges arose from allegations that Mr. Brauchitsch paid Mr. Lambsdorff and Mr. Friderichs 510,000 marks (\$325,000) for the FDP in return for an Economics Ministry-approved tax waiver for Flick.

The 450 million mark (\$250 million) waiver, on the sale of Flick shares in carmaker Daimler-Benz in 1976 and 1979, has since been rescinded.

The Flick company was West Germany's biggest family-run private industrial holding company, with interests ranging from steel, tanks and explosives to cars, chemicals and insurance.

COLUMN O

BBC newscaster attacked in office

LONDON (AP) — Three men sprayed something in the face of newscaster Jan Leeming and snatched her bag during an attack Sunday night inside the British Broadcasting Corporation's television centre, police said. Police said the intruders got away after the attack. Ronald Neil, BBC TV news editor, said he saw 44-year-old Miss Leeming at Hammersmith hospital later and she was "shocked and shaky." He said "her eyes have been cleaned but we don't know what was sprayed" in them. Miss Leeming "challenged three men she disturbed in an office on the seventh floor and one took a canister from his pocket and sprayed her in the face. We do not know what the substance was," said a spokesman at Scotland Yard. London's police headquarters. The BBC reported Miss Leeming on the 9:10 p.m. newscast. The corporation said her bag was found later inside the TV centre but it didn't know if anything was stolen. The BBC was expected to hold an inquiry into how the intruders got into the building at White City. The centre is tight with guards and security barriers and every visitor has to show a pass.

Another man arrested near Kensington Palace

LONDON (AP) — A man who approached a private area at Kensington Palace, London home of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, was detained by police Sunday night, Scotland Yard said. The London police headquarters said the man was not a threat to security but was being looked after because of concern for his mental welfare. It was the second incident at the palace in five days. On Wednesday night, a man was arrested after attacking two policemen who grabbed him before he could climb the wall of the 17th century red-brick palace. In magistrates' court next day, Bela Mark Stifter, 27, was remanded in custody accused of being equipped for theft and harming the two officers. As royal press officers could not be contacted, it was not clear which members of the royal family were in Kensington Palace Sunday night. It is also the home of several relatives of Queen Elizabeth II, including her sister Princess Margaret, who is vacationing in the Caribbean.

Murder suspect says he is Gorbachev's son

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A man charged with killing a Soviet military attaché was ordered to undergo psychiatric testing after telling a court he was the son of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a newspaper reported Monday. The newspaper Muslim said the case of Zafar Ahmad was postponed on its first day Sunday after the accused made a series of outbursts in the courtroom. Ahmad is charged with killing Soviet Military Attaché Colonel Fyodor Gorenkov last September. Pakistani officials said at the time that Ahmad had been hanging around the Soviet embassy for weeks trying to emigrate to the Soviet Union and he appeared to be mentally disturbed. The Muslim reported that Ahmad babbled in a mixture of Russian and English when he was brought into court Sunday for the start of hearings in his case. "I am son of Gorbachev," and "Papa Gorbachev save me," the newspaper quoted him as saying. The court ordered the case adjourned until next month and sent Ahmad for psychiatric examination.

Floating yen lures people into sewage

TOKYO (R) — Treasure-hunters near Tokyo braved a local sewage canal when they saw hundreds of thousands of yen floating in the muck, police said. Police in Chiba city have collected 140 10,000-yen notes (worth a total of \$12,900) from the sewer since the first bill floated to the surface on Saturday. "We don't know if someone just dropped the money or what," a police spokesman said. "No accidents were reported near there and no one claimed the loss, so we'll have to wait and see." Local newspapers reported that boys combed the water with long fishing nets and some men jumped into the canal but only police were reported to have recovered any of the banknotes.

Congress panel assails Reagan over Reykjavik

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ronald Reagan was poorly prepared for the U.S.-Soviet summit in October that ended with "an astonishing degree of confusion" about potential nuclear arms control agreements, a congressional committee said.

Reuter adds from Miami: Adolfo Calero, one of three directors of the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebel alliance, was expected to win support from Presidents Jose Azcona of Honduras and Jose Napoleon Duarte of El Salvador.

The four leaders met privately Sunday night and there was no official explanation afterwards why the proposal was not accepted.

Mr. Calero, considered the most conservative member of the directorate of the United Nicaraguan Opposition (UNO), was to announce his departure at a news conference at the group's Miami offices, according to rebel officials.

But Mr. Calero plans to remain as head of the Honduras-based Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN), the largest of UNO's rebel armies, the officials said.

A Calero supporter depicted the move as a major concession to moderate elements of UNO represented by the group's other two directors, Arturo Cruz and Alfonso Robelo, both former officials in Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Four months after the meeting, there is still an "astonishing degree of confusion" surrounding what actually happened" and what the two leaders discussed and nearly agreed to, the report said.

"With the value of hindsight, it is possible to suggest that the Reagan administration was ill-prepared for the negotiations it participated in, and consequently, would have been ill-served had its product been accepted," the panel said.

The report was based on a series of hearings held by the committee's defence policy panel, which listened to a variety of witnesses, including several U.S. participants in the Iceland summit last Oct. 11-12.

White House officials declined comment on the report, saying they had not yet seen it.

Les Aspin, a Democrat and the chairman of the panel, said: "The complete record, from the decision to accept the Soviet invitation to the effort to put a favourable spin on the outcome, shows the White House in confusion and disarray."

Sweeping U.S. proposals for deep reductions in nuclear arsenals were never studied in advance by the Pentagon for their impact on the military balance, Mr. Aspin said. "This table-top, study-later approach is symptomatic of the whole problem."

The summit was proposed by the Soviets and accepted by Mr. Reagan in late September. The panel's report noted that "the announcement of a summit to take place in less than two weeks astonished most observers. Reagan's longstanding and considerable opposition to unprepared summits was well known."

The report noted that the summit came in the wake of the Soviet release of American journalist Nicholas Daniloff, arrested for allegedly possessing classified material, and the U.S. release of Gennadi Zakharov, a U.N. employee arrested for alleged espionage.

"There is yet to be a convincing explanation of the administration's claim that there was no trade of Daniloff for a Soviet spy, nor any linkage between the summit and the entire Daniloff affair," the report said.

'Star Wars' weapons could be used against planes and cities

CHICAGO (AP) — Scientists say lasers in the proposed "Star Wars" defence system could be used offensively to attack airplanes or set fires in cities.

Such an offensive ability "may lead to an entirely new phase in an offensive arms race," said Caroline Herzenberg, a physicist at the Argonne National Laboratory in Argonne, Illinois.

Potential offensive use of "Star Wars" weapons has been discussed virtually since President Ronald Reagan's original speech on what officially is known as the strategic defence initiative (SDI). Mr. Reagan told the United Nations in September that he had firm assurances the proposed system, designed to destroy incoming warheads, could never be used to cause mass destruction on earth.

Mr. Herzenberg said she believed that apart from offensive capability, the existence of space-based weapons could encourage the placing of nuclear weapons in space, although that strategy is not proposed for the "Star Wars" programme and it is banned on Earth.

"I believe that he is sadly misinformed," Dr. Herzenberg said Sunday at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

She stressed she was giving her personal views, and said her comments also applied to space-based defensive systems that other nations might employ.

"Star Wars" lasers are designed to destroy missiles at long distances by focussing on their thin skins as they rise from their silos. Since the lasers are designed to penetrate the atmosphere, they could also be aimed at other targets in the air or on the ground, Dr. Herzenberg said.

Studies have concluded that a system with hundreds of orbiting lasers, or hundreds of orbiting mirrors to reflect beams from a laser on the ground, "could cause devastating fires and firestorms in cities," she said.

The newspaper said notice of Protocol 1 must be rejected, the president was quoted as writing in a letter to the Senate committee. But he added, "we must not and need not give recognition and protection to terrorist groups as a price for progress in humanitarian law."

The administration has concluded that Protocol 1 would give credibility to "insurgents and terrorists" by giving their members the status of combatants and prisoners of war, the newspaper said.

The United States signed the two protocols in 1977 with the understanding that a decision on formal ratification would await a formal study by the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Signing commits a nation to act in keeping with the treaty but only formal ratification gives the treaty legal force. If a nation that signs a treaty then refuses to ratify it, it is no longer obligated to abide by it.

"It is unfortunate that Protocol 1 must be rejected, the president was quoted as writing in a letter to the Senate committee. But he added, "we must not and need not give recognition and protection to terrorist groups as a price for progress in humanitarian law."

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He said workers at the plant running the two reactors and cleaning up the accident are driven in each day from several villages built just outside the restricted zone. When workers have been exposed to a prescribed level of radiation usually after several weeks, they are no longer allowed to work at the plant, Dr. Gale added.

Because there has been no damage to the town, he said many of the inhabitants are anxious to return to their homes, not realising that radiation is impossible to detect without special equipment.

Dr. Gale also said that while none of the babies whose mothers were exposed to high levels of radiation has been born with birth defects, "a small number, perhaps twenty, may grow up mentally retarded."

He estimates 35 Americans will die from cancer during the next 50 years as a result of the radiation they received from radioactive gas that drifted over the United States in the days after the accident.

Dr. Gale is involved in the initial stages of a long-term study

Chernobyl deaths estimated to reach 75,000

CHICAGO (R) — The accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in the Soviet Ukraine last year could result in as many as 75,000 cancer deaths over the next 50 years, according to a top U.S. medical consultant.

Dr. Robert Gale, head of a team of specialists who performed bone-marrow transplants on Chernobyl victims, estimated that between 5,000 and 150,000 excess cases of cancer would occur worldwide because of the accident. About half of those who developed cancer were likely to die from the disease.

He estimates 35 Americans will die from cancer during the next 50 years as a result of the radiation they received from radioactive gas that drifted over the United States in the days after the accident.

Dr. Gale is involved in the initial stages of a long-term study

of 135,000 people evacuated from the area surrounding the plant.

Those people are now scattered across the Soviet Union and must be identified, the levels of radiation they received must be determined and blood samples must be taken.

He has just returned from a tour of the Soviet reactor and the area surrounding the plant. He described a land of ghost towns that have been turned into a military base 95 kilometres in diameter.

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